



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1862-02-09

**Letter from John Muir to Sarah Muir Galloway and David Galloway,
1862 Feb 9**

John Muir

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Oct 9th [4]

The singing is good now
ask for Oak hall which is about
10 miles from Madison South then
ask for Dr. Kirby's district, or if
you don't wish to come to school
I will be in Madison any day you
set You had better come to school
tho And I will give you a lecture
I lecture every Saturday evening
on Chemistry or Nat Philosophy
Sometimes to sixty or seventy
You know it does not require
much experience to be a district
school philosopher I've hasn't
visited my school nor I his
But I saw him once and he
said he was infinitely happy
Among his generous Dutch, he has
singing schools and Sabbath schools
and writing schools I hope Maggie
John are happy and the rest body
May you all be always blest
Yours truly John M. M.

[13]

Feb. 9, 1862

Dear Sarah
I got your letter a good long
while ago but I have been
so busy I have hardly known
where I was Mother wrote me
that you were all pretty well
I am well as usual, the usual
blessings attending district school
teaching do not seem to yield
the rigorous consequences which
I had anticipated The Monday
morning that I commenced I
did not know where to look nor
what to say nor what to do
and I'm sure looked as bashful
as any maid, A maid tumbled upside
down on a velvet sofa was as much
at home I heard a scholar declare
that the teacher didn't seem to
know bran, but all moves with
regularity and ease now I couldn't
get my clocks out with me at first

and as I had not a watch I
 set to work and made a clock to
 keep time untill I had an opportunity
 of getting my other one from Madison
 It cost about two hours work and
 kept time by water passing in a fine
 jet through a three cent piece.
 I have a big wheel set on the wall
 which tells the different classes
 when and how long to recite
 And a machine too for making
 me a fire in the morning at
 any hour I please. So that when
 I go to the old log schoolhouse
 these cold biting mornings I
 find every thing warmed and
 a good fire. I sometimes think
 of a "fixin'" to bot the boys ears
 for at first the cry of "He dont
 half whip" came loud and angry
 from all parts of my parish. And
 indeed I did think it an awful

00285

thing to keep the little chaps
 even though so many did give praise
 in rich abundance at times of being
 in school to the end of the term
 My voice would shake for hours
 after each loyal application
 but now they cause precious little
 agitation of conscience of soul
 My scholars however nearly all
 mean to behave themselves
 they are neither good nor bad
 certainly not such children
 as Pollock speaks of as good
 and gentle as to seem as "made
 entire of beams of angels eyes"
 Sarah how would you like
 to have a new home every five
 or six days I often wish I could
 come home among you all a day
 or two but by the bye you told
 Mrs Perkins that you was coming
 down some day I hope you will